

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-11 ISO-00 COME-00 SAL-01 EB-07

DLOS-04 INT-05 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INRE-00 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HALIFAX BY POUCH

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TAGS: ICNAF, EFIS, XN

SUBJECT:NOTE BY US COMMISSIONERS ON HERRING REGULATIONS
FOR SUBAREA 5 AND STATISTICAL AREA 6 OF ICNAF

1. FOLLOWING NOTE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT ICNAF SPECIAL MEETING, ROME, JANUARY 21. QUOTE: AS IT HAD DONE EARLIER ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS, THE UNITED STATES DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION AT THE 1974 ANNUAL MEETING TO THE SERIOUS CONDITION FACING BOTH THE GEORGES BANK AND GULF OF MAINE HERRING STOCKS. IN RESPONSE TO THIS RESOURCE CRISIS THE UNITED STATES URGED THAT THE 1975 OVERALL QUOTAS ESTABLISHED FOR THESE STOCKS AT THE 1974 ANNUAL MEETING BE ADJUSTED DOWNWARD IN ORDER TO AVOID PRECIPITOUS DECLINES IN STOCK LEVELS AND THE NEED FOR MORE DRASTIC REDUCTIONS IN 1976. WHILE IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED AT THE MIAMI SPECIAL MEETING TO RESET THE GULF OF MAINE QUOTA AT A REDUCED 1975 LEVEL OF 16,000 MT, NO COMPARABLE ACTION WAS TAKEN FOR THE GEORGES BANK STOCK, DESPITE THE RECOGNITION THAT THIS WOULD LIKELY NECESSITATE A MORE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE 1976 QUOTA.

IN COMMISSIONER'S DOCUMENT 75/24 PRESENTED AT THE 1975 ANNUAL MEETING THE UNITED STATES AGAIN NOTED THAT CURRENT DATA CONFIRMED THE NEED FOR A DRASTIC REDUCTION OF THE 1976

QUOTA IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE OBJECTIVES ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE GEORGES BANK STOCK WERE MET. ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE SINCE THAT TIME PROVIDES NO INDICATION OF ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITION OF THIS STOCK. FURTHER, THE COMMISSION HAS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED AS ITS MANAGEMENT GOAL THE REBUILDING OF THIS STOCK TO THE MSY LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY 500,000 MT. NO PROGRESS HAS YET BEEN ACHIEVED IN FULFILLING THIS COMMITMENT. THE UNITED STATES EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL OF A 1975 QUOTA OF 150,000 MT SINCE IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT SUCH A LEVEL OF REMOVALS WOULD LIKELY DECREASE, RATHER THAN INCREASE, THE STOCK SIZE, AS WELL AS PERMIT THE SIZE OF THE STOCK TO FALL BELOW THE ESTABLISHED MINIMUM SIZE OF 225,000 MT. THE UNITED STATES HAS OBSERVED WITH CONCERN THE CONSEQUENCES SUCH

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AN APPROACH HAS CREATED FOR THIS SPECIES IN OTHER AREAS, AND IS DETERMINED THAT SIMILAR CRISIS WILL NOT BE REPEATED FOR THE HERRING STOCKS OFF ITS COAST.

IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE COMMISSION MUST NOW TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES ESTABLISHED FOR THIS STOCK. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE IF THE QUOTA IS SET AT A LEVEL WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE MAXI-

MUM CHANCE FOR SIGNIFICANT STOCK RECOVERY ON THE BASIS OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE ASSUMPTIONS OF YEAR-CLASS STRENGTH. ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE DATA, ASSESSMENT SCIENTISTS HAVE STATED THAT A QUOTA AS HIGH AS 60,000 MT WILL REASONABLY ASSURE THAT THE GEORGES BANK STOCK WILL REMAIN AT THE LOW LEVEL OF 225,000 MT. ON THE BASIS OF DATA AVAILABLE THROUGH JUNE 75, IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT AN OVERALL STOCK SIZE INCREASE OF 10 PERCENT CAN BE PRODUCED BY A 37,000 MT TOTAL QUOTA. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE 1976 QUOTA SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT THE LOWER END OF THIS RANGE, OR ITS EQUIVALENT BASED ON THE LATEST CATCH AND AGE SAMPLING DATA. THE PROCLIVITY OF ICNAF TO SET QUOTAS AT THE HIGH END OF A RANGE MUST BE STRONGLY RESISTED. THIS PRACTICE HAS UNIFORMLY RESULTED IN FURTHER DECLINES IN THE STOCKS, INCLUDING THE GEORGES BANK HERRING STOCK.

IT CONTINUES TO BE THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT U.S. COASTAL FISHERMEN SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO SUBSIDIZE THE EXCESSES OF OTHERS BY ACCEPTING A REDUCTION IN THEIR ALLOCATIONS FOR THIS STOCK. SERIOUS ECONOMIC EFFECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPOSED ON SMALL U.S. COASTAL FISHERMEN AS A RESULT OF EARLIER REDUCTIONS APPROVED FOR THE

GULF OF MAINE STOCK. AS THE UNITED STATES NOTED IN COMMISSIONERS DOCUMENT 75/24, THESE SMALL COASTAL FLEETS CANNOT NOW BE REQUESTED TO BEAR AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN AS THE RESULT OF THE DECISION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO POSTPONE THE REQUIRED REDUCTION IN THE GEORGES BANK QUOTA. ACCORDINGLY, IT CONTINUES TO BE THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE 1976 U.S. ALLOCATION OF THIS STOCK SHOULD BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THIS IMPORTANT U.S. FISHERY, AND TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIALLY COMPENSATE FOR THE REDUCTIONS SUSTAINED IN THE GULF OF MAINE QUOTA. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED.

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